

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 IO-10 /074 W

----- 073237

O R 021715Z APR 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 726

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE

CINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 638

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD, OPS AND INCO

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST ON CAMERA DROPPED FROM AIRPLANE

REFS: A) STATE 73839; B) STATE 71712; C) BONN 4924;

D) USBERLIN 587

1. SUMMARY: US CHIEF CONTROLLER DELIVERED AGREED
RESPONSE TO SOVIET PROTEST ON DROPPED CAMERA INCIDENT IN
BASC APRIL 2. SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER INDICATED RESPONSE
WAS UNSATISFACTORY BUT DESULTORY FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION
PROVIDED NO FIRM INDICATION WHETHER OR HOW SERIOUSLY
SOVIETS MIGHT FOLLOW UP. END SUMMARY.

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2. US CHIEF CONTROLLER READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT (AND

HANDED OVER UNOFFICIAL WRITEN COPY):

BEGIN TEXT THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES HAVE LOOKED INTO THE MATTER RAISED IN YOUR STATEMENT OF MARCH 24, 1975 AND HAVE AUTHORIZED ME TO RESPOND AS FOLLOWS: THE FLIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT ON MARCH 6, 1975 TO WHICH YOU REFER WAS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROPERLY FILED FLIGHT PLAN AND PURSUANT TO THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN DAIR/P(45)71 OF OCTOBER 22, 1946. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FLY LOCAL FLIGHTS IN THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE AND WILL OF COURSE EXERCISE EVERY CAUTION TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO OCCURRENCES CONTRARY TO ANY PROVISION OF THE AGREED PROCEDURES. END TEXT.

3. BRITISH AND FRENCH CHIEF CONTROLLERS LENT SUPPORT TO STATEMENT BY THEIR PRESENCE BUT TOOK NO PART IN SUBSEQUENT BRIEF CONVERSATION. SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER ACCEPTED STATEMENT BUT SUGGESTED HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT FIND IT ADEQUATE SINCE IT DID NOT ADDRESS ISSUE OF PHOTOGRAPHY FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES. WITHOUT REFERRING TO APPROACH BY SOVIET EMBASSY TO DEPARTMENT, HE ASKED IF STATEMENT WAS PERSONAL REPLY OF US CHIEF CONTROLLER OR THAT OF THIS AUTHORITES AND WHETHER ANOTHER STATEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. US CHIEF SAID THAT STATEMENT WAS FROM HIS AUTHORITIES, AND HE COULD ADD NOTHING TO WHAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REPLY. SOVIET CHIEF SAID FLIGHT IN QUESTION HAD BEEN IMPROPER BECAUSE IT WAS FOR PURPOSES (INTELLIGENCE) OTHER THAN DIRECT BENEFIT OF BERLIN GARRISON. US CHIEF, WHILE AVOIDING DISCUSSING PURPOSE OF FLIGHT, NOTED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT 1946 AGREEMENT ON FLIGHT RULES AND PROCEDURES DOES NOT FORBID PHOTOGRAPHY. ONLY PROVISION OF 1946 AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE IN QUESTION WAS THAT ON DROPPING OF OBJECTS. SOVIET CHIEF, WHO GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT NATURE OF OUR RESPONSE, AGREED THERE WAS NO MORE TO BE SAID AT THIS POINT BUT LEFT IMPRESSION SOVIETS MAY, AFTER RECEIVING REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT TO PARALLEL APPROACH IN WASHINGTON, MAKE ANOTHER STATEMENT IN ORDER TO HAVE LAST WORD. WE CONTINUE TO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MISHAP SHOCKED SOVIETS OR THAT THEY WOULD USE IT, AT LEAST IN ISOLATION, AS PRETEXT FOR DISTURBING STATUS QUO IN AIR
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REGIME.

4. USCOB CONCURS.GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UR
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